

Application No. 10/709,723
Amendment dated December 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2005

Docket No.: 22171-00016-US1

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 25, 38, 47, and 48 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, and 25 are independent. Claims 1, 12, and 25 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, and claims 2, 41, and 44 have been canceled by this amendment, so as to place the application in condition for allowance.

Anticipation Rejection over Asar

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asar (US 5,473,254) is requested. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2, thus rendering the rejection moot. Allowance of claim 1 is therefore requested.

Unpatentability Rejection over Cheng in view of Asar

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al (US 6,781,392) in view of Asar is requested. Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 41, and independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 44, thus rendering their rejection moot. Allowance of claims 12 and 25 is therefore requested.

Unpatentability Rejection over Cheng in view of Asar

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 38 and 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asar in view of Cheng et al and Chee (US 6,084,420) is requested. These claims depend from now allowable independent claims 1, 12, and 25, respectively, thus rendering their rejection moot. Allowance of claims 38 and 47-48 is therefore requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 2, 41 and 44 are drawn to allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reliance upon the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, allowable claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claim 1; allowable claim 41 has been incorporated into independent claim 12; and allowable claim 44 has been incorporated into independent claim 25. Claims 2, 41, and 44 have been canceled.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes that each of pending claims 1, 12, 25, 38, 47, and 48 in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. An early indication of the same would be appreciated.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22171-00016-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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